

Statement for the Record
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)
May 24, 2018
H.R. 5515, National Defense Authorization Act, FY2019

- Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act offered with Rep. Stephanie Murphy, which would provide not less than \$12 million for the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of our defense security cooperation programs as part of the more than \$700 million this bill authorizes for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.
- Each year, the United States spends as much as \$10 billion on our security cooperation programs.
- This includes the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, the Counter-ISIL Fund, the cooperative threat reduction program, and other security programs that help build the capacity of foreign security forces.
- The United States trains, educates, advises, and equips our foreign partners all around the world.
- However, we have done next to nothing to understand the effectiveness of these programs at accomplishing their goals and advancing U.S. interests.
- I commend the Department of Defense for its work to establish an office tasked with creating a monitoring and evaluation framework for security cooperation programs and conducting evaluations.
- I am glad the first evaluation will be conducted this year on military logistics in the Baltics.
- This amendment will ensure that this good work continues and expands in a manner commensurate with the amount of money we are currently spending on security cooperation programs.
- I thank Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Smith, Representative Murphy for working with me on this amendment.